

## VICTORY WILL COME.

THE BATTLE OF OUR HOLY CHURCH AGAINST INFIDELITY.

Storms of Opposition Rage and Wane, but the Rock Is Unmoved. "Heaven and Earth Shall Pass Away, but My Words Shall Not Pass Away."

The bark of Peter in the 18 centuries during which it has ridden the waves has passed through many storms. And at times the children of the church, in spite of their knowledge that they are divinely protected so long as they heed the apostolic steersman's voice, have felt the approach of emotions not unakin to heart shaking dismay.

At the present moment minds and souls are not unaffected by the influence of passing events. It may be in place, therefore, to dwell upon the truth that the church which God has founded and in which his spirit dwells shall not, according to the divine promise, fail until the world and all that are in it have an end. "Heaven and earth shall pass away," said our Lord, "but my words shall not pass away." And one of his explicit words was that he would be with the church all the days, until the end of time.

Catholics, then, with his divine promise in their minds and hearts, may look confidently upon the storms that rage around the church, for they know that Christ is in Peter's boat and in his own hour will rise and bid the waves rest and the wind be still, as erstwhile he did upon the waters of the lake. Amid much that tries and troubles anxious souls there is always that anchor left. Nothing shall overcome; not even the gates of hell shall prevail against the kingdom which the Son of God set up.

Storms there have been, are now and forever will be, trial and opposition are our lot, as they were our Master's, but the victory is sure. Of the time or the manner it is not ours to forecast, but the fact is ours to recognize and be thankful for. The victory will come, and the storms will blow by and the sea be still.

Today the loss of faith is a characteristic of the modern mind. But there has been infidelity before. It has had almost as many fashions as dress. As a recent Catholic writer puts it: "In the sixteenth century infidelity came with literature; in the eighteenth with philosophy; in the nineteenth it has come chiefly with Biblical studies." And he adds as a corollary of counsel to the foregoing indisputable statement: "This, therefore, is the field in which the Christian apologist has to concentrate his forces. In others occasional battles will have to be fought—in history, in the physical and moral sciences—but the contest in this generation will continue to rage oftenest, longest and hottest around the books of the Old and the New Testament."

Any one who takes note of the ceaseless output of critical Biblical literature in our times will have no difficulty in admitting the truth of the conclusion this writer draws. And it is well for us Catholics that amid so much that requires sifting and carefully weighing to even approximately estimate its relative worth—it is well, we say, and should deeply console us that we can afford to wait, securely relying upon the church and her infallible doctrinal authority.

Where some, eager to settle every difficulty offhand, will foolishly follow their own views, indifferent to it, it may be neglectful of, the voice of the witness of truth, the church's faithful children will know how to possess their souls in patience, obedient to her teaching, submissive to her magistracy and confident that when errors and crude speculations have had their little day and settled down she will be found, as she has been ever found, unchanged and untouched, holding aloft the torch of truth that was lit by Jesus Christ and has been kept afame for 1,800 years by his indwelling Spirit.

Faith hearts may take courage and strength. Systems and theories come and go. They are as ephemeral as magazine articles, which provide ten table chatter and amuse an idle hour. The thinker and the philosophic reader can run over in his mind's a whole Milky Way of systems that now give little light and are of less value than one sparkling star. You can follow their course across the page of history. They were splendid and glistened in their day. Now their beauty and radiance are gone, and few care even to know their titles or investigate their teachings.

But the church lives on, ever carrying out her divine commission to instruct men in those matters which her Lord gave her to teach. She is no center of changing philosophies, no lumber room of exploded systems. She is the ever living and unfailing voice of God. Men upbraid her that she does not change. They insist that her doctrines are like everything else in this world—like as he is impeded; that her definitions are as pliable as scientific diets. They forget—perhaps they do not forget, but simply deny—that her truth is from God. He gave it to her; she did not make it. And in so far as time and circumstances called forth from her explicit declarations as to its nature or its extent, his holy spirit brooded over her deliberations and led her into all truth."

These things, especially in our day, cannot be too frequently brought to the mind of Catholics. They know, if others do not, in whose hands is the prerogative to declare God's word. If now and again mental trial comes upon them, and they ask for further light and are eager for greater lucidity and fancy that notions are dangerously growing toward fact, let them look over the long past and see how often

storms have beaten upon the rock and how frequently men dreamed it would crumble. And, in, the storm went back, and the rock was unmoved.

So it has been! So it will be! We need not worry at one trouble or another. The church knows best. Her voice speaks the truth. And we hear and heed it because of him who said to her first apostle, "He that heareth you, heareth me." Jesus, the Son of God, the Way, the Truth and the Life, is the same yesterday and today and will not change forever. While we are with those whom he has appointed to rule his church we are safe and under their protecting rule we shall be guided unto all wisdom in the things of God.—London Catholic Times and Opinion.

### ARCHBISHOP ELDER.

The Venerable Prelate Celebrates His Eighty-first Birthday.

His grace the venerable William Henry Elder, archbishop of the city of Cincinnati, celebrated his eighty-first birthday on the 23d of March. The archbishop celebrated low mass at the cathedral and afterward spent the day quietly at the archiepiscopal residence, receiving congratulations.

Archbishop Elder is now the oldest member of the American hierarchy. He enjoys exceptionally good health and is vigorous and robust. As the senior prelate of the United States and one of the oldest in the world he stands today in his fifty-third year as a priest, in the forty-second year as a bishop and the seventeenth as archbishop. He has been the metropolitan of the Cincinnati province, under whose jurisdiction are the episcopal sees of Cleveland, Columbus, Louisville, Fort Wayne, Indianapolis, Nashville, Detroit and Grand Rapids, for the past 20 years. The diocese over which the archbishop presides numbers today 250 priests, 228 churches, 100 parochial schools, 4 orphanages and a Catholic population of 190,000.

**What Catholics Should Read.**

Writing on "What Catholics Should Read," Rev. J. H. O'Donnell says: "Tracing as they do the pathway of right living, pointing out the vital difference between right and wrong and teaching man his responsibility to higher power, our Catholic writers are discharging a duty the exalted nature of which we can scarcely realize and second only to that of the Christian pulpit." Though he does not explicitly say it, we believe that Father O'Donnell intended to include Catholic editors in these praises of Catholic writers. We seem to see a picture of ourselves and some of our confreres among those of whom he says: "At best they are poorly compensated for their efforts and often become the targets for violent abuse, but conscious that their vocation is a noble one they persevere in their labors, undismayed by want of pecuniary success, undiscouraged by adverse criticism."

Church Progress.

**On Nothingness.**

When the thoughtful student reflects that he is in mere atom amid the infinite space and countless orbs that surround him, he is overawed by a sense of his nothingness, and when he considers how little he has learned after all his labor in comparison with the treasures of knowledge that still lie hidden in nature's bosom he will exclaim with the great Newton, "Whatever the world may think of my learning, I feel like a little child on the seashore gathering a smooth pebble here and a shell there, while the ocean of eternity lies unexplored before me."—Cardinal Gibbons.

**Masses For the Dead.**

This is a great consolation, for though it is more to have a mass said to assist at one, it is nevertheless a special comfort for the suffering souls if we offer for them the masses which we attend and thus pour out upon them the sacred blood of Jesus. St. Jerome remarks on this subject, "The souls in purgatory for whom the priest celebrates mass are free from pain during the time mass is said for them."

**ITEMS OF INTEREST.**

The Very Rev. Bertrand Orth of Portland, Ore., has been appointed bishop of Vancouver's island, B. C.

The Little Sisters of the Poor of Brooklyn have purchased the Carmine estate, covering 25 acres, at Hempstead, L. I., where they will erect a home for respectable aged women.

The Rev. Henry A. Judge, S. J., of Boston college has been appointed prefect of studies and discipline in St. Peter's college, Jersey City. Mr. McEwan, S. J., replaces Father Judge at Boston college.

Edward Downes of New Haven, who was canonized to Amsterdam during the second administration of President Cleveland, will be ordained to the priesthood at Rome on Sunday, June 10. He is about 38 years old.

The Very Rev. J. H. Stattery of St. Joseph's Seminary For Negro Missions, Baltimore, acting for the fathers of St. Joseph's society, has bought 210 acres of land five miles from Montgomery, Ala., on which he will erect a college for negro Catholics.

Cardinal Vaughan ordained his nephew, Herbert Vaughan, to the priesthood the other day at Courtfield, the Herefordshire home of his family. The place would have been the cardinal's, but when he went into the church he gave it over to his younger brother, Colonel Vaughan, the father of the newly ordained priest.

**New Mexico Democratic Platform.**

We, the representatives of the democratic party of New Mexico, in convention assembled at Albuquerque on the 13th, April, 1900,

Do hereby reaffirm our allegiance to the honored principles of the democratic party as set forth in the Chicago platform in 1896, and hereby announce our unabated and continued confidence in, and admiration for our great standard-bearer—the Hon. William Jennings Bryan.

We believe in the immortal principles enunciated in the declaration of independence "that governments are instituted among men deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed;" and that the principles of the constitution of the United States which secure to all men life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness and a voice in the government, ought to be extended to all territory, however acquired; and we denounce the arbitrary and tyrannical policy of the present national administration, and of congress in regard to territory which has been acquired as a result of the late war with Spain; and we especially denounce the recent act of congress creating a tariff wall between Puerto Rico and other parts of the country; and we desire to call the attention of the people of New Mexico to the fact that if this policy thus inaugurated were to be carried to its logical conclusion, duties could be imposed upon all exports and imports between this territory and the rest of the United States; that our citizens could be deprived of all voice in the government of this territory, of the right of trial by jury, of the writ of habeas corpus, of the right of public assembly and all other fundamental rights, and that a general rebellion could be erected upon the ruins of free government.

We favor: An American financial system made by the American people to be secured by a tariff levied to be applied to the immediate restoration of that free and unlimited coinage of gold and silver at the present ratio of 16 to 1 without the aid or consent of any other nation; an amendment to the constitution authorizing an income tax, and providing for the election of United States senators by a direct vote of the people; the immediate construction and fortification of the Nicaragua canal; the recognition of the independence of Costa Rica; a home rule for the Philippines; eternal opposition to trusts; a vigorous foreign policy; a tariff levied for purposes of revenue, and a graduated scale of taxation throughout the country and not discriminating between class or section, and taxation limited by the needs of the government honestly and economically administered; statehood for New Mexico; a monetary system which respects the government's sovereign right to issue all money, whether coin or paper; the retention of the greenbacks as they now exist and the retirement of all national bank notes as rapidly as possible; the re-establishment of the gold standard in coin.

We are in favor of liberal pensions to soldiers and to their dependents; we believe that names upon the pension rolls should not be arbitrarily dropped, and we believe, as stated in the last national platform, that the fact of enlistment and service should be deemed conclusive evidence against disease and disability before enrollment.

We are in favor of the immediate construction and fortification of the Niagara canal; the removal of the entire frontier line of the United States.

We condemn the Dingley tariff law as a trust-busting and extortion levying measure, skillfully devised for the purpose of giving to a few favors which they do not deserve and of placing upon the many burdens which they should not bear.

We welcome the opportunity offered this year to take the federal government out of the hands of the Republican party, which has abandoned American ideas and American ideals, and at the same time to remove the wealth which has plotted against the national independence of the individual and the contemplation of the nullification of the Declaration of American Independence.

We pledge ourselves to wage an unceasing warfare against all trusts—the money trust, the industrial trust and the international land grabbing trust.

Instead of a system which would chain our nation to the gold standard and compel it to participate in all the disturbances which come to European nations we demand an American financial system, made by the American people for themselves, to be adopted by the immediate recognition of the true and unlimited coinage of gold and silver at the present legal ratio of 16 to 1 without waiting for the aid or consent of any other nation.

The Republican administration has admitted the gold standard to be unsatisfactory by appointing a committee to solicit foreign aid in restoring the double standard, and a Republican congress, even while trying to make the gold standard permanent, has condemned judgment against the standard by attempting to have the delusive hope of international bimetallism.

Instead of the system favored by the Republican party, under which national banks are to be permitted to issue and control the volume of paper money for their own profit, we reiterate our demand for that financial system which recognizes the government's sovereign right to issue all money, whether coin or paper, and we demand the retention of the greenbacks as they now exist and the retirement of national bank notes as rapidly as possible.

We oppose militarism, not because of hostility to our neighbors, but because of the practice of a rapacious and reckless, as did our forefathers, the theory of monarchy; we sympathize with the hours in their heroic efforts to preserve their national integrity.

It is our belief that women should be granted an equal voice and position with men in all matters pertaining to our public schools.

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## NEBRASKA DEMOCRATS.

Platform of Principles on Which They Stand.

### 'BESIDE THE TRUSTS.'

"Control of Money and Imperialism—Favors Independence—Army as a Menace to the Republic."

The Democratic state convention of Nebraska on March 19 passed the following resolutions unanimously:

We, the Democrats of Nebraska, in convention held in Omaha, 1900,

We favor amendments to the federal constitution specially authorizing an income tax and providing for the election of United States senators by a direct vote of the people.

We oppose government by injunction and the black list and favor arbitration as a means of settling disputes between corporations and their employees.

We observe with approval the support given by Democrats throughout the country to the movement looking toward the municipal ownership of municipal franchises.

We favor the principle of the initiative and referendum to be secured by a direct vote